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Fifty-first session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 116 and 118

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Meetings additional to the approved calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1996-1997

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

1. In document A/C.5/51/22 and Add.1, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that the following proposed meetings could not be accommodated:

(a) Parallel meetings of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, fourth session, 10-21 February 1997;

(b) Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, fifth session, 1-12 December 1997;

(c) Sixth Committee Working Group of the Whole on the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, 24-27 March 1997.

2. This was determined by applying the general criterion that, under most circumstances, the maximum conference-servicing capacity would be 80 meetings a week, the average being closer to 70 meetings, as budgetary resources were estimated to provide for a maximum of 3,500 meetings a year.

3. Now that the total number of proposed meetings additional to those scheduled in the calendar of conferences and meetings is known, the possibility of servicing the three sets of meetings listed above may be reviewed.

4. An uncertainty remains, namely, the meeting requirements of the Fifth Committee. In 1996 the Fifth Committee met for eight weeks and held a total of 80 meetings on an inter-sessional basis. Provisionally, 15 weeks of meeting services have been reserved for inter-sessional meetings of the Fifth Committee in 1997. Should the Fifth Committee exercise the option to use the entire 15 weeks of meeting services, no resources would be available to service the three sets of meetings listed above. On the other hand, should the Fifth Committee agree to meet for a maximum of eight weeks inter-sessionally, the residual provision for seven weeks could be allocated for the servicing of the three sets of meetings.

5. In the light of the above information, the Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that it has reviewed the overall requirements for the servicing of meetings in 1997 and, after determining that it will meet for a maximum of eight weeks inter-sessionally, that it will be possible to accommodate the full list of meetings included in document A/C.5/51/22 and Add.1.